

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) Welding tongs with two limbs which can be moved relative to one another, of which at least one first limb is supported such that it can be moved relative to a drive housing between an insertion position and a welding position, a work piece to be welded being clamped in said welding position to welding contacts on ends of the welding tong limbs, said contacts being essentially inclined towards each other, wherein the welding tongs comprise a ~~particularly~~ self-supporting moveable housing, which ~~can move~~ moves along the drive housing and which comprises a retaining device which supports the first welding tong limb outside the drive housing.

2. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to Claim 1, wherein the retaining device can be moved together with the first welding tong limb between said insertion and welding positions.

3. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to Claim 1, wherein the moveable housing is supported for movement on the drive housing and/or on another part of the welding tongs by at least one linear guide, ~~in particular a sliding guide.~~

4. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to claim 3, wherein the linear guide is a sliding guide which comprises a guide rail and at least one bogie, which are moveable relative to one another.

5. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to claim 4, wherein the guide rail on the moveable housing and the bogie on the drive housing are each ~~particularly~~ detachably mounted.

6. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to claim 5, wherein the bogie is fixed immovably on the drive housing.

7. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to claim 6, wherein at least two bogies are arranged spaced from one another in the displacement direction of the guide rail.

8. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to claim 7, wherein the bogie comprises a lubricant reservoir.

9. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to claim 8, wherein the moveable housing comprises two housing halves, arranged essentially symmetrically to one another and extending in the displacement direction and which are detachably joined together

at least at their ends by a front and/or rear face plate, wherein the front face plate is formed as a retaining device.

10. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 9, wherein the housing halves are formed in an approximate C-shape, and a cover panel is arranged between two mutually facing upper ends of the housing halves.

11. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 10, wherein insertion grooves for the circumferential retention of the cover panel are formed in the upper ends of the housing halves and in mutually facing inner sides of the face plates.

12. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 11, wherein each housing half comprises on its inner side two rail indentations running in the displacement direction at least for the insertion of the lower ends of the corresponding guide rails.

13. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 12, wherein the guide rails are detachably mounted in the associated rail indentation, in particular by screwed joints.

14. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 13, wherein a fixing slot formed in the height direction of the guide rail in the housing halves runs along the rail indentation and opens out into the same or is arranged adjacent to the same and a number of clamping holes running transversely to the fixing slot are

formed in the housing halves for screwing in appropriate clamping screws.

**15.** (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to claim **14**, wherein the rail indentation formed with a different depth comprises indentation sections adjacent to one another, wherein the first indentation section with a shallower depth accommodates the lower end of the guide rail and a pressure pad is arranged in the second indentation section with a greater depth, which ~~in particular~~ detachably fixes the guide rail within the rail indentation relative to a rail reference edge.

**16.** (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **15**, wherein the rail reference edge is formed by a step edge between the two indentation sections and/or by an edge of the rail indentation lying opposite the pressure pad relative to the guide rail.

**17.** (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to claim **16**, wherein the pressure pad is mounted detachably within the second indentation section and for force application ~~in particular~~ sideward in the direction of the rail reference edge.

**18.** (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to claim **17**, wherein screws ~~and in particular~~ or set screws are provided for the sideward application of force to the pressure pad.

19. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to claim 18, wherein the bogie can be pressed on a bogie reference edge formed outside on the drive housing and extending in the displacement direction.

20. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to claim 19, wherein screws ~~and in particular~~ or set screws are provided for pressing on the bogie reference edge.

21. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to claim 20, wherein a drive device within the drive housing comprises a screw drive with threaded rod and screw drive nut as a mechanical adjusting device in the displacement direction, wherein the screw drive nut is arranged rotatable, but axially fixed and the threaded rod rotationally fixed, but axially moveable, [[the]] said threaded rod engaging, particularly rotationally fixed, with its extended end in an indentation formed on the inner side of the front face plate and being mounted detachably on the front face plate.

22. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to claim 21, wherein the first welding tong limb is particularly detachably mounted on the outer side of the front face plate opposite the inner side.

23. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to claim 22, wherein [[the]] cover panels on the lower ends of the housing halves protrude in the direction of the drive housing.

24. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to claim 23, wherein the drive device comprises a particularly magnetically operating brake device.

25. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to claim 24, wherein the bogie comprises circulating rolling elements for reducing friction.

26. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to claim 25, wherein the rear face plate is essentially inverse U-shaped and partially grips around the drive housing with its U-opening.

27. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to claim 26, wherein the drive housing comprises a detachable rear housing section lying opposite the first welding tong limb with electrical cables and/or a control electronics unit and/or a tachometer generator ~~or similar device~~, the said rear housing section being ~~in particular~~ arrangeable and mountable in different rotational positions relative to the remaining drive housing.

28. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to claim 27, wherein the drive housing comprises a sideward protruding mounting flange for the detachable mounting of a base plate.

29. (previously presented) Welding tongs according to claim 28, wherein the base plate can be directly or indirectly connected to a handling device.

30. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 29, wherein with an indirect connection to the handling device a tongs compensating device is arranged between the said handling device and the base plate.

31. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 30, wherein the tongs compensating device comprises an adjustment device for the second welding tong limb and/or the drive housing.

32. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 31, wherein the adjustment device comprises a displacement device between particularly the base plate and a base frame, which can be connected to the handling device and a drive device.

33. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 32, wherein the displacement device comprises at least two guide rails and bogies assigned to them.

34. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 33, wherein the guide rails are detachably fixed to the base frame and the bogies can be moved along the guide rails, wherein they are detachably fixed to the base plate.

35. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 34, wherein at least two bogies are assigned to each guide rail.

36. *(previously presented)* Welding tongs according to claim 35, wherein the bogies and/or the guide rails are mounted on the

base plate or respectively on the base frame relative to the reference edges.

**37.** (*previously presented*) Welding tongs according to claim **36**, wherein the second welding tong limb is detachably mounted at its mounting end on an underside of the base plate facing away from the drive housing.

**38.** (*currently amended*) Welding tongs according to claim **37**, wherein the drive housing with the moveable housing in place, the base plate, the tongs compensating device and the base frame are arranged essentially one above the other and exhibit essentially the same dimensions in the displacement direction ~~and / or~~ and/or in the direction transverse to the displacement direction.

**39.** (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to claim **38**, wherein a bellows of the drive device is detachably mounted with one end on the inner side of the front face plate and its other end ~~particularly~~ on a shoulder within the drive housing.

**40.** (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to claim **39**, wherein a positively locked joint is formed between the face plates and the housing halves and/or between the base plate and drive housing or moveable housing, ~~in particular~~ by locating pins, feather keys, film with hard particles ~~or similar components~~.